

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 5, Folder 14

August 8, 1945 -  
October 26, 1945

COMMANDER NAVAL BASES  
Navy No. 3256  
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Cal.

August 8, 1945.

Dear Rafe:

Your boys have been in and out of here frequently in regard to setting up PT bases. As you know, these bases have been considerably up in the air. The original Base Development Plan called for two bases. Then we received indications that these might not be put in here. It has since developed that one base will go in and the other base material will be stored here for future use.

The original sites specified in the Base Development Plan were found unsuitable and, due to the above uncertainties, the firming-up of new locations was delayed. I believe now that you have the best site on the island. However, its development is going to be delayed due to the fact that there are not sufficient dredges in the area to put the channel through the reef at Shana Wan at an early date. We should be able to undertake this some time around November. In the meantime your boys tell me they can set up a base in Shana Wan and get the boats in and out at high tide.

Under these conditions it will be necessary to have your operations out of Toguchi where we hope shortly to start setting up landing craft repair units. This, I believe, is the best compromise that we can make at this time and I hope it will be satisfactory to you.

Your Commander Walsh is here now going over the plans and looking over the localities and will probably be able to give you first-hand information on the situation and lay-out here.

In regard to your choosing Shana Wan, I think we are way ahead of you on that. Under the old organization, the real estate problem on this island was critical and we have had the Shana Wan area up before the real estate board since last May just for this purpose. Now it is firmed up as Navy property.

Best regards to you and I hope to see you up this way soon.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U. S. Navy  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons  
Pacific Fleet  
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco,  
California.

Sincerely,

  
F. D. Kirtland.

1017

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
COMMANDER CRUISER DIVISION THIRTEEN  
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

14 August 1945

Dear Rafe:

Your letter reached me at Pearl where we finally arrived after several delays getting away from Terminal Island. Needless to say, I was glad as always to hear from you.

In Pearl I saw Swede who said he had had a letter from you in which you said some very pleasant things about me. This of course I appreciate, who doesn't, but I think you and I can always find nice things to say about each other. One of the Staff told me he had been much surprised to have one of ComCruPac's Staff tell him that you had made some adverse criticism of my Staff and the manner in which they went aboard the Tennessee and took things over. Naturally this surprised me a good deal, as you and I had so often discussed our early problems in TF 54. Your own remarks to both me and the Staff have been so entirely contrary to any such opinion that I could not understand how such a story could get around. I suppose it is the usual gossip which winds up about 180 degrees from the way it started. At any rate, I am quite sure that you said nothing derogatory and have given the matter no further thought.

As to recommendations for awards, I enclose a copy of my letter about you and certain other members of the Staff. Apparently recommendations for awards are coming through very slowly to the Board in Pearl. ComPhibsPac Board of Awards is now at Guam, so I have no idea what has been done. I recommended all the Flag Officers for Legions of Merit provided they used some insignia to indicate combat on the Ribbon, otherwise the Silver Star. A few Destroyer people were recommended for the Navy Cross. I suppose the whole thing will be brought into agreement with a general policy by ComPhibsPac.

Blandy told me at Pearl that the general policy regarding Staff awards has been to only give decorations when the Staff tour of duty was terminated. You will note what I said in my letter recommending you people, ~~and~~ I presume that Olie has already made some recommendation in your case when you left him. I have an idea also that you received something after Surigao.

I hope we shall not be out here too long, as I suppose everybody thinks that he ought to be the first one to get home, and we have just been home. I hope I may see you some place where we can have a befitting ceremony. All we could do today was give a "Turn 36" and blow the siren. Tomorrow we shall say a little prayer and knock off drills. That is about all we can do.

FILE No.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
COMMANDER CRUISER DIVISION THIRTEEN  
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Commodore Bates.

Page #2.

With best wishes from the Staff and me, and good luck,

Sincerely,  
*M. L. Deyo*

~~M. L. Deyo,~~  
~~Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.~~

Commodore R.W. Bates, U.S. Navy,  
ComMTBRonsPacFleet,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1019

COMMANDER MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRONS, PACIFIC FLEET  
Office of the Commander

21 August 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commodore Carter.

1. My Chief Staff Officer, Commander Walsh, is giving you this memorandum in person in order that I may obtain an immediate answer on the question of policy. Yesterday afternoon, Vice-Admiral Kauffman, Commander Philippine Sea Frontier, called me on the telephone and told me that he wished me and Captain Bowling of the PT 7th Fleet, to appear at his headquarters at Tolosa that afternoon, immediately. As I am not under the Philippine Sea Frontier, I was somewhat surprised, but I picked up Captain Bowling and we went to the conference. There we were told that he planned to decommission most of the PT fleet, and he suggested even sinking a good portion of them. He told me and Captain Bowling that he wished us to submit to him a plan for the decommission and, shall I say, destruction of the PTs which were not required for further operations. This all occurred in a large meeting of the senior members of the Philippine Sea Frontier, including Commander Naval Bases.
2. I thought this over during the night and this morning I returned to Tolosa and told Admiral Kauffman that I thought that it was a little unusual for the Commander of the Philippine Sea Frontier to ask one of Admiral Nimitz' type commanders to recommend to him what should be done with the PT boats, and, in particular, to make recommendations that seem to be going direct to Washington rather than to Admiral Nimitz. He told me that he expected to take over the PTs and the bases connected with the 7th Fleet on Thursday and, therefore, he felt that he had certain rights in the matter. I am now asking you if you will obtain information for me through Commander Walsh as to the policy in this matter. Do you desire that I make a recommendation upon this matter to Vice-Admiral Kauffman, copy to you, or do you desire that I take no action in the matter and leave it solely to the Commander Motor Torpedo Boats 7th Fleet, who will be under Admiral Kauffman for Operational Control until such time as you issue orders changing such a set-up? This morning Admiral Kauffman had moderated in his attitude and said that he thought it best, possibly, to decommission the PTs and leave them in some place where they could be looked after by a very small number of men. This is not a new thought as it is one that you and I discussed several months ago, and a recommendation on it would have been forthcoming had not Commander 7th Fleet told me he wished no action along that line made until after Olympic.
3. New subject: I have not been included in the Operation Plans which you are sending out from your headquarters and, therefore, excepting for glances given to me on certain of the plans, I have no information whatsoever. It is my understanding that the plans which I had seen have already been changed, and the number of the PTs to be used has also been changed. Could you tell Commander Walsh how many PT squadrons and tenders you plan to use in the North and where they will be located? And, if you can, can you give him a rough idea of about when they may be expected to go forward?

1020

4. As regards the PTs being sent to the North, I may find it necessary to recommend two or three competent, preferably PT trained, Commanders or junior Captains to handle each of these groups as an area commander. For that reason, if I can obtain information on the grouping now, I may be able to send to Washington and obtain such help. There are no officers in the entire PT fleet in the Pacific Area who are PT trained and who are Commanders.

5. It appears to me that if PTs are desired in the North in any quantity, but are prevented from being used because of transportation difficulties, it is quite feasible to move them North, particularly today, under their own power, and have them fuel at sea from their own tender. It is true that typhoons may be encountered, but suitable weather forecasts should facilitate evasion, and no routing would be done during forecasts of possible bad weather.

6. Enroute to this area, or in training on the East coast of the United States, are three squadrons: 40, 41, and 42. 40 is in the Pacific, and one division is but five days away from Leyte. The other two divisions are about a month away. It seems to me that it would be wise to divert Squadron 40 to Pearl, there to relieve Squadron 26 of obsolete Huckins boats. Squadron 41, now in training at Miami, and Squadron 42 now is outfitting in New York. It is recommended that both of these squadrons be retained in the States. Commander Walsh can discuss this thoroughly with you.

7. New subject: Squadron 37 is apparently now half at Okinawa and half at Espiritu Santo. The Selenius is also at Espiritu Santo. One half of Squadron 32 seems to be underway in the Ashland. What you plan to do with it now, I do not know. As a matter of interest, what do you plan to do with the other half of 32?

8. Commander Walsh is also over there to discuss some personnel matters with Commander Holmes. Best regards.

Sincerely,

R. W. BATES

1021

WALTER F. DILLINGHAM  
HONOLULU, T. H.  
CABLE ADDRESS "RETLAW"

P. O. Box 3288, Zone 1

August 23, 1945

Commodore R. W. Bates  
Com. M.T.B. Rus Pacific Fleet  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

Dear Dicky:

Your beautiful letter to Louise and to me has just come to us. We want you to know that yours was one of the most wonderful tributes to our friendship and to our beloved Gay that we have received. It is a consolation for us to know what a place Gay had made for himself in the few years that he was spared. You bring back some of the early beginnings of his interest in athletics. I have followed along and watched him sail his Star boat; race in San Francisco Bay; in training and in action on the football field for his school; followed the crew on the Charles River; and when he captained the freshman Harvard Crew in New London. The years when we played polo together you know about. The happy relationship which we enjoyed in sports; in his love affairs, and in his military career has been not only as father and son, but as pals. My hopes and plans for the future have always had all my boys to the fore. To rearrange these without Gay as an important factor will be difficult to do. This bloody war has demanded a fearful price from so many that I am thankful beyond words that it has come to a close.

You were good to take the time to tell us of your share in our sorrow. This is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely



WALTER F. DILLINGHAM

1022

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

24 August 1945

Dear Rafe:

I am most appreciative of your letter of 16 August and am deeply touched by your kindness in sending it to me.

As you realize, it has been a bitter disappointment to me to miss flying my Flag afloat in action. To do so has been my goal for many years. The sentiments, such as you expressed in your letter, are the ones on which I will have to rely in overcoming this disappointment.

With heartfelt thanks,

  
FORREST SHERMAN

Commodore R. W. Bates USN  
ComMTRons Pacific Fleet  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

1023





26 August 1945

Dear Bates:

Your letter of 15 August has just come to hand, and I hasten to thank you for your friendly sentiments. I accept your congratulations on behalf of the thousands upon thousands of officers and men who made up the Navy team and whose devotion to duty and sacrifices have made possible the victory. In this victory you and your officers and men have had their part.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. NIMITZ  
Fleet Admiral, USN

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
Pacific Fleet,  
Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1024

## PHILIPPINE SEA FRONTIER

5 September 1945.

Dear Dick:

I thanked you yesterday for your splendid letter of 20 August. I need not tell you how very pleased and flattered I was to have received such a letter, and I have sent it on to Elsa as I know she likewise will be very pleased.

As you say, the war is now over and for many of us the coming years will be largely made up of carrying on peace time duties and in thinking over the things that took place during the greatest of all wars, at least in our lifetime. One of the things that I shall prize more highly than any other, is the associations that I have had during these past four years and particularly the associations that have been made out in the wide open spaces of the Pacific.

We have known each other for some thirty years and I want to tell you sincerely that it has been a pleasure for me to be with you. You are one of the most considerate and thoughtful men, personally, I have ever known, and in addition to that, you have turned in a most splendid job wherever you have been.

You had an excellent cruiser in the MINNEAPOLIS and I followed your work there with much interest. Later when you went as Chief of Staff to Oldendorf, your planning and execution was splendid, as "Cley" told me a number of times. Unfortunately, in your present job you had little opportunity to carry on the offensive warfare for which the MTB's are so well equipped.

Again my thanks, and I want you to know that it will always be a pleasure for me to see you, and that no matter where Elsa and I are <sup>I hope</sup> that you will never fail to see us.

Very sincerely,

  
J. L. KAUFMAN.

Commodore R.W. Bates, USN  
Commander MTB Squadrons  
Samar, P.I.

1025



6 September 1945

Dear Bates:

Thank you very much for the sentiments you expressed about me in your letter of August 16th. I know that I deserve only a small part of the kind things you say, but still it is very pleasant to have you feel that way. We have had a fine team pulling together out here during all of our operations. I feel that my principal contribution has been to get things in general headed in the right direction and then to co-ordinate the various plans so that they were practical and fitted together so as to make the complete picture we desired.

I had hoped to see you at Okinawa when we got in from Manila the other day, but upon inquiry I was told that you had not been seen here and were probably still in Leyte. With the current situation what it is, I doubt if we shall require any PT's in Japan, so I suppose you will not move forward as you had expected.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*R. A. Spruance*  
R. A. SPRUANCE

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S. Navy,  
ComMTBrons Pacific Fleet,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1026

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
STAFF OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF

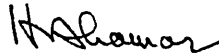
6 September 1945

Dear Commodore:

Thanks very much for your letter of August 17 and the very generous and kind remarks contained therein. It is very seldom, as you know, that an aide receives any recognition for his duties, and I was particularly pleased to have your remarks which I value most highly.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Comdr. H. A. LAMAR, USNR,  
Aide and Flag Lieutenant.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN,  
ComMTBRons, Pacific Fleet,  
Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1027

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

7 September 1945

Commodore R. W. BATES, USN,  
Commander, Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons PACIFIC,  
% Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.

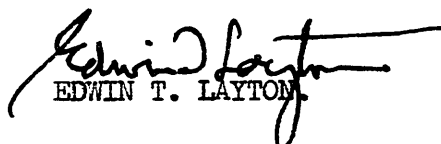
Dear Commodore BATES:

When I returned from my trip to TOKYO, with Admiral NIMITZ, to witness the signing of the Japanese surrender, I was surprised and very delighted to receive your letter of 27 August 1945. It was exceedingly kind of you to write me and express your high regard for the Combat Intelligence organization. Just as I felt that I was merely a representative of all the officers and men who have engaged in Combat Intelligence work in this War when I had that proud moment to stand on the deck of the USS MISSOURI and witness the signing of the surrender document, I likewise feel that your letter was addressed to all the personnel of Combat Intelligence, through me.

It has been a pleasure and a distinct honor to have been associated with our country's outstanding Naval personalities and brains, and I feel that this association and its indirect education will stand me in good stead in my future career. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have been associated with you, Commodore, and I hope that sometime in the future I may be of service.

With best hopes and wishes for you and yours, I am

Very sincerely,

  
EDWIN T. LAYTON

1028

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

September 12, 1945

Dear Rafe:

Your letter of 26 August is acknowledged. As you say, the war is now over and the chances for future action are likewise over. It looks to me, from the information which I have that the Japanese intend to be good little boys and with their tongue in their cheeks try to get the occupation over quickly. Of course it is possible that there may be sporadic outbreaks by a few individuals but I do not expect that these outbreaks will be many or that they will last very long. Sensible handling of delicate situations may avoid them entirely.

The following is for your eyes only. Halsey will be relieved by Spruance shortly. Spruance takes over all Naval occupation forces in Japan proper. Fletcher returns to Adak. I relieve Spruance in the present area occupied by the Fifth Fleet. No change in the Seventh Fleet Area. What this means with regard to my future movements, I am unable to state at this time. My squadron is due to return to the United States; the sixteen inch ships to the West Coast and the fourteen inch ships to the East Coast. BatDivs Two, Three and Four will be placed in Reserve except the Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Mississippi which will be decommissioned as also BatDiv Five. Whether I will take my ship back or transfer to some other ship and remain in this area is unknown to me. The date of departure of BatRon One is as soon as the services can be spared. All ships destined for the East Coast are to be there by 15 December and out of commission or in reserve by 15 January.

I was interested in your appraisal of the operations in the Philippines with particular reference to Leyte Gulf, Battle of Surigao and the landings in Lingayen Gulf. I do not think these operations were important merely because I was involved in them but because they contributed more than almost any operation to the defeat of Japan. By crisscrossing ourselves across the vital lifelines which connected the main islands of the empire with the resources and raw materials of the newly conquered Empire, the result was inevitable when we occupied Okinawa and cut the remaining supply lines from the mainland of Asia. All was over but the shouting, and of course the air force did that. I am not sure that the importance of these operations will be generally known during my lifetime but Naval historians can not help but give them their proper place in history.

As an example of things as they are, the only recognition I have had from the Seventh Fleet with regard to my operations in the Philippines is my Navy Cross for the Battle of Surigao. The DSM which Admiral Kinkaid mentioned for Lingayen and Leyte operations has not materialized. A month or so ago I saw that Wilkinson had received the DSM in recognition of his efforts at

1029

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

September 12, 1945

Leyte and Lingayen. This was in the May issue. I don't understand exactly what happened and have heard nothing.

I expect that you were rather dissappointed that more use was not made of your P.T. squadrons in this area and later in the Japanese waters. I have had two squadrons under my operational control in the Okinawa Area. They have been used for patrol and air-sea rescue. It is my understanding that Spruance did not want to use them in Japanese waters because of the prevalence of Japanese suicide boats in that area.

Thank you for your letter and hoping that I may see and serve with you again soon.

Sincerely,

  
J. B. OLDENDORF.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N.,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet, Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1030

File No.

**THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER**  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

Serial

12 September 1945

Dear Rafe:

Thanks very much for your letter of August 17th, which reached me only recently, and for the kind words therein. I am sorry that they seem to have decided against bringing your outfit up in these parts or I would have been able to welcome you to Tokyo.

We arrived September 2nd and steamed up the Bay with a ten mile long column of transports forming a backdrop to the surrender ceremony on the MISSOURI, which we passed a scant mile abeam. I presume we shall be here for some time supervising the widespread convoys from the Philippines and elsewhere, bringing in the 8th Army and FEAF elements destined for this northern and eastern half of Japan.

So far the surrender seems to be proceeding normally and with more smoothness and progress than I had anticipated. There is always a chance of some untoward incident but none has occurred as yet. I think it was a wise decision to leave the Emperor on the throne since all the Japanese seem to be carrying out his directions implicitly, and his people apparently are not objecting to MacArthur's instructions, but are putting them into effect without delay. There seems to be a gratifying attitude of "let's get on with the bad business" and an apparent desire to make friends. We must however keep the treachery of Pearl Harbor and the brutality of the prison camps before the American people lest they too soon forget them and accept the Japanese at their apparent face value.

Best of luck to you and looking forward to seeing you again soon, somewhere, somehow.

Very sincerely,

*Puig*  
T. S. WILKINSON,  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N.,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1031



**COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET**

September 12, 1945.

Dear Rafe:

Lieut. Comdr. Bondy was in to see me this morning and delivered your messages. I was glad to hear from you and know you still had the old pep.

Will attempt to bring you up to date. The MINNEAPOLIS was too short to spare the cook and steward requested. I am turning your request over to the enlisted section, asking that they provide relief for this cook and steward when opportunity and availability of relief will permit. We have had continuing difficulty with all steward's branch ratings and have at times been as low as 60% in spots. In consequence of this shortage, it has not been possible to do much juggling with these ratings.

Regarding the personnel officer, the Bureau proved its shortage of experienced personnel officers by sending you an inexperienced one. We already knew our own shortage of the same. Have had much demand for personnel officers. We have at times supplied people without personnel experience, as better than none, particularly where their qualifications indicated an ability to meet strange situations. When your 300049 came in we thought one could be provided for temporary duty on the basis of expecting the Bureau to meet your needs on a permanent basis. We had asked the Bureau for 16 such officers. None have arrived to date. Consequently, we have not as yet been able to improve on the officer sent you by the Bureau. For all we know these officers may be in transit and caught in a transportation jam. If, and when, we have any we will divide with you.

I suggest you impress into service one of your bright young lads without too many demobilization points and feel you will start going to town much more rapidly.

There are no yeomen here for assignment or distribution. We can't get enough for our own office, and BuPers has asked for several hundred for demobilization and staging centers in the Mainland. ComSeronTEN had 50 yeomen awaiting assignment on his last list. We rely on him to fill all requests in his area of operations and habitually send men for assignment to SeronTEN or the SerDivs.

Captain Fewel tells me he has answered all your requests for enlisted personnel or has indicated his action to you.

I think your plans for your own distributing centers are in line with the intra-type personnel administration and distribution carried on by other Type Commands.

1032

**COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET**

Lieutenant Everest called some time ago and was given all the information I had up to date. I hope he forwarded it to you and that it clarified your questions. To confirm what Lieut. Everest may have written you, I will repeat that Type Commanders are charged with the administration of personnel within their Command. Where you have personnel of your Type Command in units which have reported to another Command such as Philippine Sea Frontier for operations, the operational control, of course, passes to the other Command, but the administrative control remains with the Type Command. Should the activity in question not be a part of your Type Command but an activity which renders service to your Command, then the administration of that activity properly belongs to its own Area or Type Commander. This will clarify the point with regard to components in bases ashore, attached to activities of the Philippine Sea Frontier for example, which render service to vessels of your Command but which are not included in your Type Command.

I think by now your difficulties with respect to obtaining replacements have changed to the point where you may have people you wish to release. The normal source of replacements in the past has been the Service Force Squadron in the area, in your case, Seron 10. Seron 10 will continue to serve with replacements, units within reach of its activities. More recently, Commander Philippine Sea Frontier has taken over personnel duties for that area as a result of departure of Commander 7th Fleet from the Southwest area.

I am sorry that this letter has not reached you sooner, but for the past month we have been very much snowed under by the sudden arrival of demobilization problems before we had received instructions from the Bureau on how to handle them.

I have been looking forward for some time to the arrival of yourself, rather than one of your officers, to ask questions and will look forward to that until I see you.

In the meantime, best regards,

Sincerely,

*Randal Dees*

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N.,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
Pacific Fleet,  
% Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

1033

FLEET MAINTENANCE OFFICE  
COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

16 September 1945.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
Pacific Fleet,  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Rafe:

Thanks for your very nice letter of July 27th. I am sorry that a bout with the medical profession has prevented my reply earlier. Shortly after returning to Pearl about the middle of July, they railroaded me into the hospital with what I thought was just a simple bellyache but which proved to be a bum gall bladder. Said GB is now out and I expect to return to duty in a few days.

I am very sorry, indeed, that my office went astray in the matter of distilling equipment for the Acontius. As soon as I heard about it I had the action changed and I hope there was not too much delay in getting the job started.

Now the end of the war has changed pretty nearly everything. Wesley Hague is returning today from Guam, and the office out there is abolished. We are in the process of readjustment and reorganization along with the rest of the Navy, and just what will come out of it I don't know. I hope that the Fleet Maintenance Office will not be split up.

I would not want to prolong the war, of course, but looking back I am awfully sorry that you did not take on your last job early enough to show what you could do with those little MTB's. I know you would have made an important contribution and an enviable record.

I shall look forward to seeing you here when and if you come through.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

H. I.  
Smith #2.

1034

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AIR FORCE  
FLEET AIR, WEST COAST

Naval Air Station,  
San Diego, California,  
20 September 1945.

Dear Bates:

Your letter of 8 September just received and is much appreciated, particularly since I feel that you really mean what you say.

There have been thousands of disappointments in this war. It seems to me that practically no one feels that he has gotten as much out of it, in the way of action, as desired. I well appreciate the disappointment which came to you, though perhaps your present job affords some recompense. I have often wondered just what activity you got into with your boats.

When you wrote your letter to me I had left Pearl Harbor. I was only there a month. The job amounts to little and, as you know, Admiral Nimitz is back there now which I could well foresee was coming soon, making the job nothing but a name.

Having been away from home so many years, I thought it wise to grab something on the continent before they were all taken. This job as Commander Fleet Air, West Coast is about as close as one can get to an active billet these days and still be ashore with the family. As you imagine, I am very happy here with them. In fact, I found the family here when I suddenly arrived.

Many changes will take place in the next year, as you will well imagine, so any idea of ~~promotion~~ in these billets is quite problematical. *Permanence*

Let me hear from you from time to time. Best regards to you and any of my particular friends you run into.

Sincerely,



Commodore R. W. Bates,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
Pacific Fleet,  
% Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.

1035

COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

Hr

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
27 September 1945.

Dear Rafe:

Your extremely kind and enthusiastic letter of 15 September leaves me rather at a loss for words.

As you must know, I am tremendously proud of my lads and of the way they fought the splendid boats which BuShips and a lot of other people turned out for us. I have known these lads so well, have briefed most of them before they went on patrol, and have personally heard most of their reports when they returned from patrol, so that I think I have achieved a fairly good cross sectional view of them. At first, I was amazed and somewhat alarmed at the things they did, at the chances they took and at the surpassing skill with which they handled extremely dangerous situations.

I must confess that I never got over that particular reaction, for as the war went on they increased in every way the astounding things that they did.

Feeling, as I do, it is indeed very heart warming to read your words of praise of their deeds.

In addition to these lads, I had, as you know, a damn fine body of seconds in command, squadron and division commanders. They were, almost without exception, men bulging with ideas, most of which were good. I, therefore, was in the happy position of having merely to sort out the ideas and sound a conservative note when they got too wild. I must, therefore, plead not guilty to your very complimentary remarks about leadership, for actually most of this leadership, as I have explained, merely consisted in holding them back and keeping them from losing lives and ships unnecessarily.

<sup>^</sup>*Their*  
Your own gang, Rafe, has been a splendid example to all of us, for when that outfit was organized, I think everyone considered them pretty much in the light of suicide boats and their personnel were looked upon with considerable awe and great admiration. We have had to revise our ideas of your outfit only with regard to the suicide feature, for you have proven that consummate skill and unbelievable daring will bring safely through, even the little cockle shells which you so ably command.

1036

COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

Hr

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
27 September 1945.

Now that the war is over, I imagine you are, as I am, somewhat depressed by the sight of your splendid organization disintegrating. What the postwar service holds for us is hard to predict, but I think that you and I may congratulate each other upon the very evident fact that our boys won their spurs in this war and pulled their weight in the boat.

Again I thank you, Rafe, for your very courteous letter. It was a damn nice thing to do and came at a time when I needed a little cheering up.

Best regards, and hope our trails will cross again soon.

Sincerely,



C. A. LOCKWOOD, Jr.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U. S. Navy,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron,  
Pacific Fleet,  
Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

1037

COMMANDER FIFTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Wakayama, Japan.  
27 Sept. 1945.

Dear Dick :-

Many Thanks for your fine letter which has recently caught up with me. I'm only sorry that our paths didn't cross. as I was particularly anxious to talk to you about your M.T.B. Rows. As you know. I had asked Turner for Three squadrons for Olympic, and had worked out plans for their use in protecting my left flank - both offensive and defensive patrols. Know They would have proven very valuable.

As you probably know. I'm on my way back to Washington next week to relieve Gen. De Witt at The A.N. Staff

\*

1038

college. I am looking forward to it as a most interesting job. Tho I'm a little doubtful of my ability to assume the role of a college proxy.

Know you're enjoying your M.T.B. duty. That's right down your alley, and I know that if Olympic had been carried through, it would have given you that long awaited chance to show your ability to do your stuff and get that second star.

Hope to see Pig & Maryly as I go through Oakland. Look us up when you get to Washington, and meanwhile, best of luck.

Sincerely  
Harry.

VADM

HILL  
H22



September 28, 1945.

Commander Richard W. Bates, USN  
c/o Cinc Pac  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

Dear Commander Bates:

I find that I need a few more shares of the stock of The Annapolis Banking & Trust Company to qualify as a Director. I understand that you own one share of the bank's stock, and I would appreciate very much your selling it to me.

To save a lot of writing back and forth, I have enclosed my check for \$11.00, which represents the full par value of your stock plus \$1.00 per share. I have also enclosed a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

Will you be kind enough to endorse the certificate in accordance with the directions on the back of it, have it witnessed and forward it to me. Of course, if you prefer to keep the stock, I shall appreciate your returning my check within the week.

Cordially,

  
Harry R. England

211 Prince George St.  
Annapolis, Maryland

1040

COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

3 October 1945.

Dear Rafe:

Lieutenant(jg) Imhof stopped in to see me with your memorandum of 28 September. As I was involved in conferences at the time, he was unable to see me personally, but left your memorandum, with a notation attached stating that he had obtained the desired information from our Officers Section.

I am informed that he received the following information, which is correct: The large number of officers we have in the pools is limited largely to junior officers without sufficient experience for commands. You were correct in requesting reliefs for your tender captains from the Bureau, as we are not authorized to order officers to sea billets except in case of emergency, and the Bureau has ruled that an officer due for demobilization is not considered an emergency requiring us to take action.

The Area Commander, as referred to in the Navy Subsidiary Demobilization Plan, Officer Personnel, Section 2, Paragraph 1c, is for shore-based personnel, and any Area Commander may shift shore-based personnel within his area in order to provide reliefs for officers due for demobilization. It is similar to the Commanding Officer's authority to fleet up junior officers in his command in order to provide reliefs for officers due for demobilization. However, Type Commanders are not authorized to shift officers from one sea-going ship to another in order to provide reliefs for demobilization purposes. //

Lieut. Comdr. Swift brought in your letter of 22 September but also found me out. He left word he would be in later to answer questions but has not been able to make it.

Regarding your bright young lad for impressment as a Personnel Officer—it was only a suggestion to fill your needs at a time when we had no personnel officers available for assignment, nor apparently had the BuPers. Am glad to hear you have now received a personnel man from the Department to help. I can only agree with your line of thought that it is <sup>not</sup> solely necessary to take a bright lad and make him it.

1041

COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

The apparent differences re functional components are a matter of definition or phraseology of questions and answers. As I understand it, the functional components comprising a part of your Type Command are yours to administer, hence our 282342, August. Functional components not assigned to your Type Command, but under the administrative command of a shore based activity and rendering service to you, are not yours to administer. The foregoing is the gist of the reply given your representative. The two answers were not in conflict, but rather were supplementary and I know you already have your finger on the point involved.

Transportation was a difficult matter until the occupation of Japan was completed. Ships are now being released to ComServ-Pac to transport men home. The initial pile-up at Staging Centers is now being brought under control. Task Group 16.12, (Rear Admiral Kendall), has been organized and he has ships which have already called in your area, as well as others en route there.

You have no doubt told your people and other impatient ones, that all eligibles for demobilization can not be returned at once. The addition of overseas credit by the BuPers was necessary, but since BuPers had not included such credit in its initial plans, the added credits flooded the Staging and Transportation facilities. It is anticipated that demobilization will run one year to return the people delivered out here in four years.

I hope your visit soon materializes, and look forward to seeing you here.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

*Randal Dees*

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N.,  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,  
Pacific Fleet,  
% Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.

1042

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

10 October 1945

Dear Rafe,

Your letter of the 1st clarifies the PT situation for me somewhat, and I certainly hope that it does not become confused again.

We have not yet received Chapter 9 of the BuShips Manual, so I am unable to express an opinion concerning your use of substitute materials. I can only suggest that you rely on your own good judgment.

SecNav has answered your question about over-age PT's by providing for their destruction in the forward areas.

The command relationships between ComPhilSeaFron, ComMTBRonPhilSeaFron and ComMTBRonPac remains a tough problem. As you know, PhilSeaFron comes under Cincpac only for administrative purposes, and there appears to be no easy way to effect a smooth definition of authority that would be desirable. It is expected that eventually PhilSeaFron will be put under Cincpac for operational control; until this happens it does not appear that this problem will be settled to our satisfaction. As Cincpac has the duty of directing the machinations for disposition of all PT's in the Pacific, and as you are the agent for that duty, it is not feasible to place you under the operational control of ComPhilSeaFron. The other alternative would be to place all PT's under your operational control; however, the present division of Cincpac's authority and the difficulties that your staff would have in undertaking this additional duty do not make this course of action a good one. Therefore, I consider your estimate of the situation to be correct and that our best course of action is to maintain the status quo for the time being. We must depend upon you and ComPhilSeaFron to work in close cooperation, and I am certain that there will be no serious hitch.

You did not explain the solution you had worked out concerning your communications with PT's at OKINAWA. It appears to me, however, that such duties could be allocated to those tenders now in that area.

1043

Cincpac File

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

I sincerely hope that all of your difficulties will have disappeared by this time. I am convinced that you are doing this job as well as it can possibly be done under its rather trying and singular conditions.

Respectfully yours,

*Jimmy's*  
JAMES B. CARTER

1044

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
THIRD FLEET

10 October 1945.

My dear Rafe:

I have not been unappreciative or delinquent in the matter of replying to your extremely generous letter of 30 August; I only received it two or three days ago and it has occupied a top spot on my incoming basket since I read it.

Fitness reports, newspaper stuff, and the like are always appreciated when favorable, but it is the generous and unsolicited approval of respected friends which really warms the heart, and I want you to know that your letter is valued for that reason. I deeply appreciated it and I can not find adequate words to thank you for the things that you have said -- the expression of deeply felt sentiment is never a very easy thing.

The Third Fleet is now enroute to its finale; after a month's tour of the United States, Admiral Bill will haul down his flag and go on the retired list; I will stick around until his flag comes down and after that I understand that I go to the Department to take over the Fleet Readiness Division -- an assignment that offers opportunity for constructive work, and plenty of it.

This letter would not be complete if I did not tell you of the high regard all of the Third Fleet outfit holds your own efforts in this war. Your work on the tactical publications was of the highest caliber and your participation in clean-cut victories over the enemy is a source of pride and satisfaction to the service.

Take care of yourself, and if you have any constructive suggestions in connection with the work of the Fleet Readiness Division, I can assure you that they will be most welcome, and the sooner I get them the better.

Best of luck.

As always,



Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S. Navy,  
Commander MTBRons, Pacific Fleet,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.

1045



W. L. CALHOUN  
VICE ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY

10 October 1945

Dear Commodore:

This will acknowledge your recent letter to me, which I have just received.

I was extremely interested to note the remarks you made concerning the part logistics have played in this war and the part that we in the Service Force had. It is very gratifying to know that members of the Service outside of the logistics field have thought about this and have recognized the importance of logistics in our final and complete victory over the enemy.

I wish to congratulate you upon the fine record made by the motor torpedo boat squadrons in the Pacific. WELL DONE!

Today I am being relieved as Commander South Pacific Area and Force by Rear Admiral Paul Hendren, and I will be on my way to the Mainland for reassignment.

With best regards and good wishes, again thanks for your congratulatory remarks, and may God bless you and keep you well and happy.

Sincerely,

W. L. CALHOUN,  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy,  
Commander South Pacific Area and Force.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, Pacific  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

1046



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
REQUIREMENTS REVIEW DIVISION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

19 October 1945

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons Pacific Fleet  
Office of the Commander  
c/o F.P.O.  
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Commodore:

I was delighted to receive your letter of 24 September and am very grateful to you for the kind remarks expressed therein. For my part I can assure you that it was a real privilege to have met you and to have discussed various matters with you. I regret that I could not have spent more time with you under conditions that were less distracting than those under which we did meet. In other words I am afraid my mind was partly on the dance rather than fully on the matters under discussion.

I have shown your letter to Mr. Hensel and he has indicated to me that Alexander Royce can be addressed in care of Chadbourne, Wallace, Park & Whiteside at 25 Broadway, New York City, N. Y. Mr. Hensel also asked me to send you his very best regards.

Naturally the surrender of Japan occurred sooner than most of us expected that it would, but nevertheless I think that we can all be glad that it did occur so soon. Even though the surrender caught us none too well prepared, it is a real pleasure to be working on problems when we know that no lives will be lost or casualties suffered. I am sure that you have a real job on your hands in decommissioning the PT Fleet and demobilizing its personnel nevertheless I know you will do a grand job in it.

At the present writing I am expecting to be demobilized myself about 1 November and shall thereafter be located at the ~~New~~ <sup>National</sup> City Bank, 55 Wall Street, New York. I sincerely hope that you will have the time to stop by to see me there at some date in the future when you are in New York.

With very best personal wishes and regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Ferol D. Overfelt*  
Ferol D. Overfelt  
Captain, U.S.N.R.

1047



[1945]

QUARTERS ONE  
YERBA BUENA  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

21 October

My dear Bates:-

Your very nice letter  
arrived yesterday, and  
I thank you very much  
for taking the trouble to  
write it and also for the  
very nice things you  
kind to say.

To be regarded favorably  
by one's fellow officers and  
to have your work satis-  
fying to them, or appre-  
ciated by them, is the

1048

best reward that one  
can have - all the  
rest is transient publicity.

I think the western  
sea frontier got naming  
in larger gear in time  
to be of some real help  
in the Pacific war.

The fall of Japan came  
so suddenly that it  
was difficult to stop the  
flow and to put the  
machinery in reverse.

Just now we have  
our hands full with  
the demobilizing strain  
and all our other problems,

QUARTERS ONE  
YERBA BUENA  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

keeping ships and stations  
maneuvered into low-  
joint personnel, and  
taking care of the ships  
returning for the reserve  
and inactive fleets and  
for disposal. The  
slowness of the Department  
in making decisions has  
not helped matters.

I think I shall probably  
be permitted to remain  
here, until things are  
settling in general

1050

satisfactorily. As I have  
less than two years  
more before I am 64  
years old, I see no  
other billet in it would  
tempt me. I think I  
shall quit as soon as I  
can decently do so.

With kindest  
regards and all wishes  
for success

Very sincerely  
R. E. Byrnes.

**THE RICE INSTITUTE**  
NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS UNIT  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Sqds.  
Pacific Fleet  
C/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

22 October 1945

My dear Commodore:

Your letter of 6 August found me in Houston, Texas after doing much traveling. Unfortunately, I was detached from Admiral Oldendorf's staff on the 12th of August which was just about the time the Japanese were trying to give up. Their intent to stop fighting at that stage was not conclusive for on the same night that I was detached the PENNSYLVANIA, fresh from Navy Yard overhaul, was hit by one Japanese torpedo, as you well know. At that time I again meditated over the Japanese practice of giving newcomers in the fleet a working over whenever it was possible. To me it was remarkable that ships joining up almost invariably suffered damage from one reason or another.

The communication instructions were worked over several times and I suspect that the final revision is available should you still desire it. The location of the TENNESSEE and the flag are unknown to me at present as is the composition of the staff which I understand has undergone other changes. My relief, Captain Donaho, has his orders, so I am told, and Duffy was expecting to be detached as soon as his relief, who reported aboard, was broken in.

With regard to the post-war education letter, van Deurs and I took all of the various comments submitted by the staff and made a very brief summary in letter form embodying the salient features of post-war training along the lines that had been discussed. I am glad that CincPac considered it of interest. My present duty as Professor of Naval Science and Tactics at Rice Institute keeps me in the training game which we all are in throughout our naval careers. If one isn't concerned with training the individual it is with the training of larger components of the fleet and of the Navy. So we are fundamentally "professors."

I am glad Admiral Smith was not put on the chopping block for the disaster of the DE under his command. His reply to the Admiral for his apparent delay in submitting the written report was classic. His wife is in Coronada and, thinking she knew about the situation, I almost made a terrible blunder. She, however, apparently knew nothing about it.

The disposition of your squadrons now that the heavy fighting is over, is a subject of much discussion, no doubt. I would guess that

1052

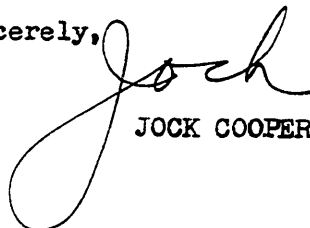
they would use them as patrol boats among the various islands formerly belonging to the Japanese which we now patrol. You did not have much of an opportunity to develop ~~the~~ motor torpedo boats but I am just as glad now that the war is over. Perhaps you can re-write the type tactics and type doctrine for their future uses. At the same time, revise USF10B as necessary.

While in Washington, we had the good fortune of seeing Admiral and Mrs. Hustedt, who are both very well and as charming as you would wish. Irene is just as lovely as she was 20 years ago. We were also in Washington on Nimitz day and I was very glad to see him get a share of the big hands being given out. Perhaps J. B. will eventually be accorded the honors due him.

The housing situation throughout the country is critical and we do not have even a faint hope of being able to rent suitable quarters here. If the family is to stay together, I will probably have to buy a shack at an inflated price. However, we will, no doubt, find something suitable if our patience does not get out of hand.

I hope that you are finding your duty pleasant and interesting and your staff and organization running smoothly. Thank you for all of the assistance you were to me during our short cruise together. So far as I know there has been no report requiring me to comment, which would not be unwelcome in that particular case. I appreciate your nice letter and if you again have the opportunity, I would be interested to know what you are doing with all of your 290 pounds. With every good wish.

Sincerely,

  
JOCK COOPER

1053

26 Octoby 1945  
Pearl Harbor

Dear Commodore:

The duties which were assigned to me have been completed and the following is an outline of the results:

I saw Commodore Carter who read your letter, said that it was quite comprehensive, and said that he had no doubts but that the job was being carried out efficiently. At the Commodore's invitation I discussed the prints which you had given to me and he had no further questions.

Commodore Carter had not received your letter relative to his part in the war so I delivered the letter that you had given to me.

I saw Commodore Dees and was referred to Comdr. Hubbell, who handles officer assignment. An Aerologist and a S.C. officer are being ordered out on a class 3 air priority. There are absolutely no lieutenants ~~of~~ Lt. Comdr. S.C. available for reassignment and a ~~1st~~ was substituted. I explained your great need for a senior S.C. officer but Comdr. Hubbell said that the shortage of senior officers was acute and that there would soon be almost none in the complete Navy.

On the tender Capt. problem the Comdr. said that it was again typical of all other branches. All reserve Lt. Comdr. and most reserve Lt. are eligible for discharge so that this office has had



only one Lt Bond<sup>3</sup> available for re-assignment since the beginning of the ~~war~~ <sup>demobilization</sup>. The Comdr. realizes the problem but says that he has no remedy and is only hoping that the bureau will take some corrective action. My story hit a blank wall here since it was obvious that nothing could be done.

Enclosed is a copy of a speed letter which was sent to the bureau after your letter was received here. It is the opinion here that your fitness report May to Sept. of 1944 was completed and sent to the bureau. They think that it was enroute at the time that your letter and the bureau's notice were sent. On receipt of an answer to the enclosed they will take steps to correct the file if action is necessary.

4

I saw the aide to Vice Adm  
McMonis and found that your  
letter concerning his part in the war  
had not been received.

Gen. Harold Mandell has  
received his letter and had not  
answered because he was under  
the impression that your command  
had been dissolved, and didn't  
know when to write. He will  
write to you in the near future.

Comdr. Holmes of Cine Pae personnel  
has been relieved by a Comdr. Bullen.

According to my notes this com-  
pletes all the duties which were assign-  
ed. If there are any questions, I'll  
be happy to answer and my address  
is enclosed.

I arrived here the 23rd and  
will leave tomorrow on the Cape Esperance.

With kindest personal regards,  
yours very truly,

W E Lano

650 Winsor St.  
Jamestown, N.Y.